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THE ROLE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE CONTEXT OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY, DISARMAMENT AND OTHER RELATED FIELDS

International transfer of sensitive technologies

Working paper submitted by Brazil

1. The report of Working Group IV on its work during the 1991 substantive session of the Disarmament Commission registered the interest expressed in continuing to work on the subject of the international transfer of high technology with military applications in the light of the working paper submitted by Argentina and Brazil (document A/CN.10/145) and other relevant documents, "bearing in mind the proposal for seeking universally acceptable international norms or guidelines that would regulate international transfers of sensitive technologies, while ensuring that such norms do not deny access to high technology products, services and know-how for peaceful purposes". 1/

2. At its forty-sixth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 46/38 D, in which it took note of such interest and recognized that "norms or guidelines for the transfer of high technology with military applications should take into account legitimate requirements for the maintenance of international peace and security, while ensuring that they do not deny access to high technology products, services and know-how for peaceful purposes".

3. In paragraph 1 of the resolution, it called upon the Disarmament Commission "to continue its consideration within the scope of its agenda of all relevant aspects of the question of the transfer of high technology with military applications at its 1992 session, with a view to concluding its work on this matter at its 1993 session".

4. In order to further focus and structure the deliberations initiated in 1991 on the subject, it is suggested that a possible set of draft guidelines could be developed under the following categories:

(a) Objective:

The drafting of general principles and guidelines on the transfer of high technology products and services with application in nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction;

(b) Parameters:

(i) The maintenance of international peace and security;

(ii) The contribution for the process of arms limitation and disarmament;

(iii) The promotion of unimpeded access for legitimate purposes;

(c) Principles:

(i) Non-discrimination;

(ii) Transparency;

(iii) Equity;

(iv) Predictability;

(v) Effectiveness; and

(vi) Reciprocity of benefits and obligations;

(d) Scope:

(i) Concrete items to be covered;

(ii) The relationship with existing regimes;

(iii) The role of the United Nations;

(e) Mechanisms:

(i) For transparency of rules and procedures;

(ii) For monitoring, control and verification;

(iii) For unimpeded access to high technology products and services for legitimate purposes;

(f) Processes:

Initiatives that could result from the adoption of a substantive document by the Disarmament Commission.

Notes

1/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 42 (A/46/42), para. 42, report of Working Group IV, para. 16.